

**For Immediate Release:** November 1, 2016

**Media Contact:** Nahal Mogharabi, [mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov](mailto:mogharabi.nahal@epa.gov), 213-244-1815

**En Español:** Soledad Calvino, [calvino.maria@epa.gov](mailto:calvino.maria@epa.gov), 415-972-3512

### **Solid Waste Removal at Fruitland Magnesium Fire Site Begins in Maywood, Calif.**

Air monitor installation and site prep completed

**LOS ANGELES**—This week, the U. S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) will work with the California Department of Resources Recycling and Recovery (CalRecycle) to identify and remove solid waste at the Fruitland Magnesium Fire Incident site (“the “Site”) in Maywood, Calif.

Materials at the Site, which include solid and hazardous wastes, will be segregated loaded onto trucks to be properly disposed of. During removal activities at the Site EPA will control dust generation and migration using water to wet materials. Air monitoring and sampling will be conducted around the Site perimeter to measure effluent particulate and prevent exposures to the community. EPA has identified metals such as arsenic, cadmium, chromium, lead, and mercury as the contaminants of concern at the site. The removal trucks will not be travelling through through the E. 52<sup>nd</sup> St. neighborhood. All wastes from the Site, solid and hazardous, will be sent approved disposal facilities that are in compliance with all appropriate regulations.

In preparation for removal activities EPA has completed preparations at the Site to prevent any dust from the site from migrating off-site. These activities include:

- **Debris Curtain:** a debris curtain was installed along the southern boundary between the facility and adjacent residential property to protect against dust, noise and debris;
- **Storm Water Pollution Prevention:** straw wattle erosion controls were installed around the perimeter of the Site to prevent rain from spreading ash or soil off the site;
- **Dust Suppression:** a soil sealant, similar to a glue, has been applied to debris and soils at the Site to control dust generation.
- **Air Monitoring:** five air monitor stations have been set up around the perimeter of the Site, both upwind and downwind, including two at residential properties directly adjacent to the Site. These air monitoring stations will collect samples and measure total dust in the air. Additionally, air monitoring for Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs) will be done at the site. To-date, no VOCs have been detected in the air.

After waste removal is completed, EPA will evaluate site conditions to ensure that no hazardous wastes remain at the site. EPA does not anticipate needing below surface excavation as most of the ground surface at the site was covered with concrete or asphalt prior to the fire.

### **Background**

On June 14, 2016, a fire destroyed an industrial property located at 3570 Fruitland Avenue in Maywood, Calif. The fire affected two facilities on the Fruitland Avenue property – Panda International Trading (PIT), a scrap metal recycling business, and SOKOR Metals, an electronics recycling business. The EPA will continue to coordinate with state and local agencies, including the Los Angeles County Department of Public Health, the Los Angeles County Fire Health Hazardous Materials Division and the California Department of Resources, Recycling and Recovery.

For more information, please visit: <https://www.epa.gov/ca/epa-response-fruitland-magnesium-fire-maywood-ca>

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